

REMARKS

In view of the preceding amendments and the comments which follow, and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.111, amendment and reconsideration of the Official Action of October 25, 2004, is respectfully requested by Applicant.

Summary

Claims 1 - 12 are pending. Claims 1 – 6, 8, and 12 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced as a result of these amendments.

Drawings Objections

The Examiner has objected to the drawings, namely Figures 32, 35 and 36 under 37 CFR 1.83(a) for failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. The Examiner states that the Claim 1 feature reciting that “magnetically coupling the main magnetic pole layer and the coupling layer directly” must be shown in the corresponding figures or cancelled from the claim. Applicant has amended Claim 1 by removing the word “directly”, and respectfully requests that this drawing objection be withdrawn.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to Claims 1 – 12 because of informalities. Applicant has appropriately corrected, as specified by the Examiner, all cited informalities related to Claims 1 – 4.

In regard to Claim 1, the phrasing “an opposing face” has been replaced by “the opposing face.”

In regard to Claims 2 – 4, the phrasing “a given depth” has been replaced by “the given depth.”

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully request that these claim objections be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1 – 12 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

In regard to Claim 1, Applicant has rewritten the indefinite phrasing to read “a face opposing a recording medium” instead of “an opposing face opposing a recording medium.” Further, the wording “the inner width” has been replaced by “an inner width”. The phrasing “an opposing face portion” has been replaced by “a recording medium opposing face.” Also, the statement of “the back” has been replaced by “a back.”

In regard to Claim 2, the phrasings of “the lower face” and “an inorganic insulation layer” have been replaced by “a lower face” and “the inorganic insulation layer.”

In regard to Claim 3, the phrasings of “an inorganic insulation layer” and of “the pattern” have been replaced by “the inorganic insulation layer” and “a pattern.” Further, the phrasing “the groove having a given depth from the opposing face opposing the back of the opposing face” now reads “the groove having a given depth from the recording medium opposing face to the back of the insulation layer.”

In regard to Claim 4, the phrasings of “an inorganic insulation layer” and of “the resist layer” have been replaced by “the inorganic insulation layer” and “a resist layer.”

In regard to Claim 5, the phrasings of “such as” has been deleted.

In regard to Claim 6, the phrasing of “the resist layer” has been replaced by “a resist layer.”

In regard to Claims 8 and 12, the phrasing of “the center line” has been replaced by “a center line.”

As such, Applicant submits that the indefiniteness and antecedent issues of Claim 1 have been removed, and therefore requests that these rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 be withdrawn.

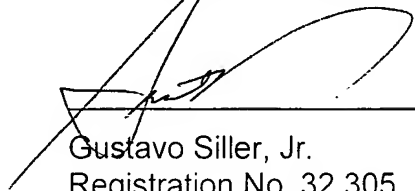
CONCLUSION

In view of the arguments above, pending Claims 1 - 12 are now patentable. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to grant early allowance of this application. If, there are additional fees due, Applicant requests that this paper constitutes any

necessary petition and authorizes the Commissioner to charge any underpayment, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 23-1925.

If for any reason, the Examiner is unable to allow the application in the next Office Action and believes that an interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorneys at (312) 321-4200.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gustavo Siller, Jr.", is written over a horizontal line.

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